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STATEMENT BY THE INDONESIAN OBSERVER DELEGATION
UNDER ITEM 9
GENEVA, 7 FEBRUARY 1989

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by extending my delegation's congratulations to you Sir, on your unanimous election to the chair. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our felicitations to the other members of the Bureau on their respective elections. My delegation is confident that under your wise guidance and skillful leadership, our work will be successful.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to be free is the most fundamental of all human rights and all other human rights are derived from that most intrinsic right. Thus, it is indeed gratifying to note that now there remains less than 3 million people still living under colonial rule while nearly 44 years ago, when the United Nations was founded, more than 750 million people were still in this unfortunate position. The demise of the colonial era and the emergence of new independent states have served as living proof and testimony of the adherence to, and implementation of, the principle enshrined in Article 1 of the UN Charter, namely, "equal rights and self-determination of peoples".

Numerous factors have contributed to the global quest to eradicate the vestiges of colonial domination. The goals of independence and equality have, through the years, been expressed and consolidated at various historic occasions, including the Asian African Conference held

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in Bandung in 1955. The subsequent shared colonial experience, of 43 Asian and African states then initiated the process which led to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, while the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement immeasurably strengthened the common struggle to liberate all peoples by adding to the momentum already established.

Indonesia is proud to have played a modest role in this collective effort. As co-initiator and sponsor of the UNGA resolutions 1514 (XV), as well as 1541 (XV), Indonesia believes that the adoption of the Declaration stands as an enduring testament to the collective conscience and determination of the international community to ensure justice to all. The granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples has, for the first time, been recognized as a legal principle.

While all of us assembled in this room share the universal concern for human rights, including the right to self-determination, we cannot forget that the protection of civil and political rights in any country must take into account the cultural, social and economic aspects of that nation. It would seem that there is a tendency to see the human rights issue in a narrow perspective focussing only civil and political rights and neglecting socio-economic factors. While genuinely aspiring to protect all forms of human rights, many developing countries must concentrate first of freeing themselves from the problems resulting from the legacy of colonialism, namely : poverty, hunger, misery and illiteracy. To view the human rights situation from a narrow perspective which fails to take account of these factors therefore goes against the true spirit of UN resolution no. 32/130.

Mr. Chairman,

While great strides have been made in our quest for universal equality, much work still remains to be done. Therefore Indonesia has been encouraged by the recent developments concerning Namibia and welcomes the implementation of the United Nations Plan for the

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Independence of Namibia as of 1 April 1989. Indonesia also welcomed the signing of the tripartite agreement in New York in December 1988 between Angola, Cuba and South Africa, relating to Namibian independence and the bilateral agreement between Angola and Cuba on the withdrawal of ~~Angolan~~ Cuban troops from ~~Cuba~~ Angola and the establishment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

Indonesia would also be receptive to any action the Secretary General might take to arrange a formal cease-fire between the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and South Africa. This, and other measures conducive for the Namibian people to hold free and fair elections under United Nations supervision should be provided. Finally, Indonesia recognizes the need for economic and financial assistance to the Namibian people, both during the transitional period and after independence.

Mr. Chairman,

The increased repression inside South Africa itself of all opponents of the apartheid regime also gives grave grounds for concern. Indonesia remains convinced that only the implementation of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions will effectively bring about a peaceful end to apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial and democratic regime.

Nor can the question of Palestine be dissociated from the colonial context since millions of Palestinian are still deprived of the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and independence. Indonesia supported the historic decision taken on 15 November 1988 to proclaim the independent state of Palestine by recognizing the new state on 16 November 1988 and it will shortly open diplomatic relations with the Palestinian state. Palestine merits our unqualified support in its struggle to secure Israel's total and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including Jerusalem, and in this respect, bold initiatives are called for in order to break the deadlock

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on the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as endorsed by General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. In our view, such endeavours would be greatly facilitated by placing the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, under temporary United Nations supervision.

Mr. Chairman,

While having the floor, I would like to respond to certain speakers who have referred to East Timor, simply to set the record straight.

As we have explained time and again, the people of East Timor have exercised their legitimate right to self-determination by deciding to be independent through integration with Indonesia in accordance with their traditional practices and on the basis of, and in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV)and 2625 (XXV). This process was witnessed at every stage by scores of foreign diplomats and international media representatives. While the provisional Government and Parliament established by the 4 major political parties submitted a petition to the Indonesian Government, the latter, while welcoming the request of the people of East Timor, refused to accept their request until the exercise of the right to self-determination had taken place.

While Portugal has made much of the non-involvement of the United Nations in the process of self-determination for the people of East Timor, it is a matter of record that in 1976 the provisional Government of that territory regularly informed that organisation of developments and made every effort to have the United Nations participate in the decolonisation process. Indeed, a delegation of the provisional Government of East Timor was dispatched to New York and Geneva with the sole purpose of meeting with and inviting the relevant United Nations organs to participate in the decolonisation process. Regrettably, all of these invitations were accorded a negative response. In spite of these disappointments however, the provisional Government of East Timor never failed to report each and every state of that process to the

Secretary General of the United Nations, to his Special Representative, to the President of the Security Council and to the Chairman of the Committee on Decolonisation.

Moreover, what is also often ignored or not sufficiently stressed, is the fact that principle IX (b) of resolution 1541 (XV) states that with regard to integration, "the United Nations would, when it deems necessary, supervise these processes." It is clear therefore, that the participation of the United Nations in the process of decolonisation, while laudable, is certainly not mandatory. It should also be noted that no two cases of decolonisation are exactly the same, subject as they are to the different realities prevailing in the territories concerned.

It should additionally be recalled that in the exercise of their political freedom and inalienable rights, the people of the province reaffirmed their decision to integrate with the Republic of Indonesia in the general elections of 1982 and 1987.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate that Indonesia is still committed to the on-going dialogue being conducted under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, if Portugal really does wish to pursue this dialogue then we would suggest that it should take a more constructive attitude and should refrain from engaging in misrepresentations which have characterised this session and many others in the past.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.